

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on December 27, 2005, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-50 are pending in this Application. Claims 1, 11, 13, 14 and 41 are independent claims and the remaining claims are dependent claims. In this Amendment, claims 1, 11, 13, 14 and 41 have been amended. A version of the claims containing markings to show the changes made is included hereinabove. Applicants believe that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance. A notice to this affect is respectfully requested.

Preliminary Matters

The Examiner made this office action a final office action even though it is the first office action after filing of an RCE, which Applicants believe is improper. The Examiner maintained his previous rejection but utilized a different part of the prior art (for example, the reference to column 7, lines 39-44 of Bergman). Further the Examiner cited additional prior art made of record (U. S. Patents 6,589,290; 6,209,006 and 6,639,610 as well as U.S. Published Patent Applications US2004/0044743 and 2005/0216861) which was not listed in the prior office actions. Applicants request that the finality of the rejection of December 27, 2005 be withdrawn.

The Examiner continues to define the term "hyperlink" in a manner inconsistent with the normal definition of the term. The Examiner defines the term "hyperlink" as "a selectable region for a given element that implies user input". Attached herewith is a printout of a definition of the word "hyperlink" from the website www.thefreedictionary.com which shows the definition for the word "hyperlink" is "a link from a hypertext file to another location or file...". Clearly, the Examiner cannot and should not adopt a definition of a term to serve his own purpose which is different from the normal meaning given the term, as understood by those of ordinary skill in the art, and as used in the specification and the claims.

Rejections under §102

Claims 1-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,909,678 to Bergman et al. (hereinafter Bergman). Bergman discloses a Java application that utilizes a drag and drop template to compose a structured natural language query. Bergman does not utilize a hyperlink. Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, 13, 14, and 41 to further define the hyperlink, stating that the “...hyperlink providing one of the group consisting of a link from the form to another location, and a link from the form to another file”. Bergman fails to disclose or suggest a hyperlink, as the term is understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, as used in the specification and as defined by the dictionary. If the Examiner is to maintain this rejection, the Examiner is asked to specifically point out in the Bergman reference where a hyperlink is discussed and where the “link from the form to another location or from the form to another file” is shown.

Further the Examiner stated that Bergman teaches a user may select a phrase receptacle via clicking the receptacle which then links the user to the menu boxes. This is incorrect, the user is not “linked” to the menu boxes, but instead a popup menu is presented as part of the same document and graphical user interface and is not a link to another location. This is evidenced by the pseudocode of Bergman shown in Figures 10a-10c. Stated differently, a program in which a mouse click event causes a pop-up menu to be displayed does not utilize hyperlinks. The Examiner further stated “[T]hus the user interface of Bergman could display a plurality of electronic documents linked via the phrase receptacles.” The Examiner is asked to point out where in Bergman this statement can be shown, as Applicants fail to see how Bergman can link a plurality of electronic documents via phrase receptacles, when Bergman can only display pop-up menus on a mouse click event. It appears the Examiner is attempting to read much more into Bergman than Bergman actually discloses.

Therefore, since amended claims 1, 11, 13, 14, and 41 include a hyperlink, while Bergman fails to disclose or suggest a hyperlink, claims 1, 11, 13, 14 and 41 are believed allowable over Bergman. Claims 2-10, 12, 15-39 and 42-50 depend from claim

-11-

s1, 11, 14 or 41 and are believed allowable as they depend from a base claim which is believed allowable.

In view of the above, the Examiner's rejections are believed to have been overcome placing claims 1-50 in condition for allowance and reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

The prior art made of record is not believed to disclose or suggest the present invention.

Applicants hereby petitions for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3735.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-9660, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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hy-per-link ¹ (hī'pər-līŋk') *Computer Science*
n.

See [link](#)¹.

v. **hy-per-linked, hy-per-link-ing, hy-per-links**

v.tr.

To make a hypertext link in (an electronic document or file).

v.intr.

To follow a hypertext link to an electronic document or file.

[**hyper(text) + link**¹.]

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Thesaurus

Legend: Synonyms Related Words Antonyms

Noun 1. hyperlink - a link from a hypertext file to another location or file; typically activated by clicking on a highlighted word or icon at a particular location on the screen

link - (computing) an instruction that connects one part of a program or an element on a list to another program or list

Mentioned in

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References in classic literature

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